

JUNE 14.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Twenty-one persons present.

A paper entitled "Notes on the Tertiary Geology of the Southern United States," by Angelo Heilprin, was presented for publication.

The death of Baron Maximilien de Chaudoir, a correspondent, was announced.

*Some new Genera of Fresh Water Sponges.*—Mr. E. POTTS referred to a recent paper by H. J. Carter, F. R. S., (Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., Feb. 1881,) entitled, "The History and Classification of the Known Species of *Spongilla*," in which the writer has distributed the species, heretofore grouped under one generic title, among five genera, founded upon the differences in form and arrangement of the spiculæ surrounding the statospheres. He spoke of the arrangement as a timely step well taken in advance, in the history of this branch of the animal kingdom.

He believed that the characteristics of the statospheres and their spiculæ were those which furnished the only reliable distinctions among fresh water sponges; but the recent discovery of novel forms in American waters had already required an increase in the number of genera and seemed to make it desirable to modify the terms of some of those already established.

In illustration he referred to several forms observed in this neighborhood, resembling in many points the English *Spongilla lacustris*, (taken as a type of the genus *Spongilla* in the new arrangement), in which, however, the spiculæ were not acerate, but irregular in shape; were not placed "tangentially" upon the surface; or were altogether wanting. Specific names were suggested for these, but were held under advisement, awaiting a decision as to whether it would be better to create new genera for them or to enlarge the scope of those already defined by Dr. Carter.

The two new genera already decided upon were then described. Under the generic head *Meyenia*, Dr. Carter has grouped those species, in which the statosphere is surrounded by birotulate spiculæ, radiately arranged; one disk resting upon the surface. Throughout the genus as already constituted, the shafts of these spicules are of a nearly uniform length; and the outer disks nearly or quite touching at their edges give the appearance of a second coat to the statosphere. In two species, however, observed by Mr. Potts last summer, this uniform series was broken by another, of about double their length, much fewer in number, somewhat regularly arranged, interspersed among them. He